

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Christopher Madigan
Appl. No. : Not Yet Assigned
Filed : Concurrently Herewith
Title : SHAFT SEAL ASSEMBLY WITH RETAINING RING AND WASHER

Docket No. : 71,024-004

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 AND 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to Rule 97 and in compliance with Rule 56, Applicant hereby makes of record the items listed on the attached Form PTO/SB08A. Under the provisions set forth whereby the office waived the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each U.S. patent publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003, Attorney for applicant is not submitting a copy of any of the noted references referred to on the enclosed PTO/SB08A, due to the fact that the above noted application was filed after the above noted date.

None of these items noted on the PTO/SB08A disclose the inventive concepts claimed in the subject application.

Should there be a fee associated with this document, please charge it to Deposit Account No. 08-2789. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.



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March 15, 2004

Date

Enclosures:
PTO/SB08 (1 Pg.)

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	
Filing Date	
First Named Inventor	Christopher Madigan
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	71,024-004

Sheet 1 of 1

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 3,810,639	05/14/1974	Scannell	
		US- 4,079,947	03/21/1978	Morris	
		US- 4,102,538	07/25/1978	Bertin	
		US- 4,159,828	07/03/1979	Ostling et al.	
		US- 4,696,479	09/29/1987	Karcher	
		US- 4,755,115	07/05/1988	Akaike	
		US- 5,211,406	05/18/1993	Katzensteiner	
		US- 5,299,811	04/05/1994	Kershaw	
		US- 5,370,400	12/06/1994	Newton et al.	
		US- 5,522,600	06/04/1996	Duckwall	
		US- 5,553,869	09/10/1996	Stamback	
		US- 5,860,656	01/19/1999	Obata et al.	
		US- 6,050,572	04/18/2000	Balsells et al.	
		US- 6,264,205 B1	07/24/2001	Balsells	
		US- 6,315,296 B1	11/13/2001	Oldenburg	
		US- 6,367,810 B1	04/09/2002	Hatch	
		US- 6,464,233 B1	10/15/2002	Oetiker	
		US-			
		US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

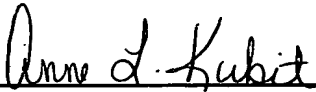
*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that the enclosed **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT** and the attached PTO/SB08/A is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee", Mailing Label No. **EV212249776US** and addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on March 15, 2004.



Anne L. Kubit